



Field Poly Tubing and Drip Tape Recycling - Enhancement

CSP -Conservation Practice Enhancement Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

December 2005

Field Poly Tubing and Drip Tape Recycling

Enhancement Identification: **CSP-EWM** – Participate in a field poly tubing or drip tape recycling program in which the producer rolls up his used field poly tubing or drip tape, stores it at an on or off-site location approved by the recycling company until being picked up. The practice is considered complete when the recycling company picks up the material from the approved temporary on or off-site location for transport to a poly recycling facility.

Enhancement Payment = \$300 annually

Background: NRCS has for a number of years encouraged use of field poly tubing in low head irrigation water conveyance and delivery systems to reduce water loss and improve surface irrigation system efficiency. The tubing generally has an anticipated lifespan of one irrigation season. It is then removed and replaced with new tubing.

Disposal of used tubing can be a significant and expensive problem. Farmers have employed burning, onsite burial, disposal in landfills, and onsite long-term storage as ways of dealing with the waste material. Huge piles of waste tubing are sometimes seen in irrigated areas, as well as, large barrels used for burning. Melted lumps of material sometimes result when individuals try to burn an entire roll rather than a piece at a time. Commercial or municipal landfills are sometimes not “permitted”, or willing to accept the material. Landfill disposal prices are also a concern.

Participation in a field poly recycling program will have positive environmental impact by reducing burning of used tubing, saving space in landfills, and preventing used tubing from stacking up on the farm. In addition, natural gas is used to produce virgin poly resin used in the manufacture of numerous plastic products (i.e., trash bags, grocery sacks, field poly tubing, and plastic wrap). Many of these products are also made from recycled poly resin thus saving natural gas. Energy savings will result from participation in these recycling efforts.

Field Poly Tubing Recycling Certification

I certify that I have implemented Field Poly Tubing or Drip Tape recycling and have incorporated this practice into my farm management program.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____